

Winnifred Harris

Tape 185

Interviewed on April 12, 1987

Transcribed by Lori G. Robinson, September, 2001

The following is an interview conducted by LaPoint sixth grader, Wendy McClure. Wendy is interviewing Winnifred Harris. The topic of this interview is clothing.

Wendy McClure (WM): ...clothing. My informant's name is Winnifred Harris. My name is Wendy McClure, and I am from LaPoint Elementary. My teacher is Miss Squires. I am in sixth grade. The date is April 12, 1987. As a child, what kind of clothing did you wear?

Winnifred Harris (Winnifred): I wore the clothes of the day. They were old- fashioned clothes, according to the clothes they wear today, but they were good, good clothes. They were rather long, they were old, they were old-fashioned, but they were nice clothing. In those days they made very good materials [for] everything that they made these kind of long dresses of. And that's about it in clothing.

WM: When you went to school, what kind of clothing did you wear?

Winnifred: The same kind that we wore at home, only we kept 'em clean. That was the main thing. We didn't have that many clothes that we could change often. I mean, we'd change, but we wore maybe the same dress day after day. We didn't have that many dresses to wear.

WM: What did you wear when you worked or fed animals?

Winnifred: Well, usually, like coveralls. That's what we had, was just coveralls.

WM: Did you have a lot of clothes?

Winnifred: No. We, we didn't have a lot of clothes, no.

WM: What was proper for women to wear?

Winnifred: Oh, they wore a lot of ribbons and bows and long dresses, and they thought they were really, well, they were pretty in those days.

WM: When you wore your clothes out, what did you do, fix them or throw them away?

Winnifred: Well, you fixed 'em, of course, maybe patches upon patches until you could no longer use 'em. Then we made use of 'em by using 'em for rags, just like the rags that you could wash your floors or put it in your mops or something like that. We had use for everything.

WM: What did men and women wear? Like when they went out?

Winnifred: Like when they went out to parties? Oh, I guess they had Levis. They had coveralls and things a lot, and they had suit pants, the men did. They were old-fashioned, but as long as they were clean, and they wore a tie with it, they were dressed, they were really dressed up. Oh, the women, oh, they wore a lot of ribbons and bows. Maybe they put a lot of this on maybe an old dress that they had washed up and ironed, and then they just put a few ribbons and bows on it, and it looked almost new. Something different at least.

WM: How did you feel about styles when you were young?

Winnifred: Didn't pay very much attention to it, didn't know that there was anything any better. We couldn't. There was no way to know. We were very young.

WM: How do you think clothing will change between 1987 and year 2000?

Winnifred: Oh, there'll be a lot of changes. They'll probably go back to the era that I'm talking about 'cause they've gone back like that already with their big long dresses and things like that, and then they went to extremes with these miniskirts and everything. They just go back and forth.

WM: How many changes of clothing did you have to wear?

Winnifred: Oh, I'd say, something that I could wear like to parties or to the school or something like that, maybe about four changes, and I thought I had a lot. In those days, you put a lot of ribbons and things like that on your clothing, or you could dye them, and you'd practically have a brand new dress by dyeing them and puttin' different color bric-a-brac or something like that on 'em. Why, you could make it look all better, and they looked new. So, that's the way it was with me.